

3. *Mechanical and Electrical Installations.* These include plumbing, heating, ventilating, air conditioning, sprinkler systems, fire alarm systems, electrical equipment, elevators, and similar items.

(a) At facilities in inactive status, maintenance of mechanical and electrical installations should be limited to that which is necessary to prevent or arrest serious deterioration. In most cases, personnel should not be employed for this work except on a temporary basis at periodic intervals when it is determined by inspections that the work is necessary. Wherever possible electrical systems should be deenergized, water drained from all fixtures, heat turned off, and buildings secured against unauthorized entry. Sprinkler systems should be drained during freezing weather and reactivated when danger of freezing has passed.

(b) At facilities in active status, such as multiple-tenancy operations, equipment should be kept in reasonable operating condition. Operation of equipment to furnish services to private tenants, as well as the procurement of utility services for distribution to tenants, should be carried on only to the extent necessary to comply with lease or permit conditions, or in cases where it is impracticable for tenants to obtain such services directly from utility companies or other sources.

(c) At facilities where elevators and/or high-pressure boilers and related equipment are in operation, arrangements should be made for periodic inspections by qualified and licensed inspectors to insure that injury to personnel, loss of life, or damage to property does not occur.

(d) Individual heaters should be used, when practicable, in lieu of operating heating plants.

4. *Grounds, Roads, Railroads, and Fencing.*

(a) Maintenance of grounds should be confined largely to removal of vegetation where necessary to avoid fire hazards and to control poisonous and noxious plant growth in accordance with local and State laws and regulations; plowing of fire lanes where needed; and removal of snow from roads and other areas only to the extent necessary to provide access for maintenance, fire protection, and similar activities. Wherever practicable, hay crops should be sold to the highest bidders with the purchaser performing all labor in connection with cutting and removal. Also, agricultural and/or grazing leases may be resorted to, if practicable, as other means of reducing the cost of grounds maintenance. Any such leases shall be subject to the provisions of §101-47.203-9 or §101-47.312.

(b) Only that portion of the road network necessary for firetruck and other minimum traffic should be maintained. The degree to which such roads are to be maintained

should be only that necessary to permit safe passage at a reasonable speed.

(c) Railroads should not be maintained except as might be required for protection and maintenance operations, or as required under the provisions of a lease or permit.

(d) Ditches and other drainage facilities should be kept sufficiently clear to permit surface water to run off.

(e) Fencing, or other physical barrier, should be kept in repair sufficiently to afford protection against unauthorized entry.

5. *Utilities.* (a) At inactive properties, water systems, sewage disposal systems, electrical distribution systems, etc., should be maintained only to the extent necessary to provide the minimum services required. Buildings or areas not requiring electrical service or water should be deenergized electrically and the water valved off. Utilities not in use, or which are serving dismantled or abandoned structures, should not be maintained.

(b) At active properties, water supply, electrical power, and sewage disposal facilities frequently must be operated at rates much below designed capacities. Engineering studies should determine the structural and operating changes necessary for maximum economy. Where leakage is found in water distribution lines, such lines may be valved off rather than repaired, unless necessary for fire protection or other purposes.

(c) Where utilities are purchased by contract, such contracts should be reviewed to determine if costs can be reduced by revision of the contracts.

6. *Properties to be Disposed of as Salvage.* No funds should be expended for maintenance on properties where the highest and best use has been determined to be salvage.

D. *Repairs.* Repairs should be limited to those additions or changes that are necessary for the preservation and maintenance of the property to deter or prevent excessive, rapid, or dangerous deterioration or obsolescence and to restore property damaged by storm, flood, fire, accident, or earthquake only where it has been determined that restoration is required.

E. *Improvements.* No costs should be incurred to increase the sales value of a property, and no costs should be incurred to make a property disposable without the prior approval of GSA. (See §101-47.401-5.)

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§ 101-47.4914 Executive Order 12512.

NOTE: The illustrations in §101-47.4914 are filed as part of the original document and do not appear in this volume.

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